Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal for distributing electronic ticket information which authenticates a right to attend an event, wherein the electronic ticket information distribution store terminal receives a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of an information storage chip, transfers the request to an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus so as to instruct the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to perform distribution authentication processing for determining whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user, receives a ticket issuing request from an electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information, and writes the electronic ticket information for a plurality of electronic tickets for the event into the information storage chip, wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets are structured in a format that allows the at least one ticket to be assigned from the information storage chip to at least one other information storage chip using the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal according to claim 19, wherein output means is provided for outputting the electronic ticket information as a paper ticket.

Claim 21 to 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (previously presented): An electronic ticket management method comprising:

(a) providing:

(i) an event organizer apparatus;

(ii) an electronic ticket platform center which is separate from the event organizer apparatus; and

(iii) an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus;

(b) causing the event organizer apparatus to form event information unique to an event;

(c) causing the event organizer apparatus to form seller information authorizing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to sell electronic tickets to the event;

(d) causing the event organizer apparatus to register the event information and the seller information in the electronic ticket platform center;

(e) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to receive a request to distribute electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of a first information storage chip;

(f) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to determine whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user by performing distribution authentication processing;

(g) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to register an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center as ticket issuing information;

(h) causing the electronic ticket platform center to form an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus;

(i) causing the electronic ticket platform center to relate the ticket issuing information registered by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to the electronic ticket information master; and

(j) causing the electronic ticket platform center to write the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for attending the event into the first information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information by performing ticket issuing processing; and

(k) causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

(i) assign at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to at least a second information storage chip which is separate from the first information storage chip; and

(ii) delete or nullify the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip in response to said at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets being assigned from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, wherein the first information storage chip is mounted on a first portable device and the second information storage chip is mounted on a second portable device separate from the first portable device.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, wherein the seller information:

(a) authorizes a plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses; and

(b) includes the number of electronic tickets to be handled by each of the plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes distributing the first information storage chip as a membership card according to a membership registration via the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes providing a predetermined time period between the distribution authentication processing performed by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus and the ticket issuing processing performed by the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes:

(a) sending the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user; and

(b) causing the electronic ticket platform center to perform the ticket issuing processing via a network.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes:

(a) sending the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user; and

(b) causing the electronic ticket platform center to perform the ticket issuing processing via an electronic ticket information distribution store terminal.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes causing the electronic ticket platform center to require authentication processing when the electronic ticket information is written into the first information storage chip.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus for controlling a reading/writing operation of electronic ticket information from and into an information storage chip of a customer in which a plurality of items of the electronic ticket information are stored, the electronic ticket information being used for authenticating a right to attend an event in correspondence with event information unique to each event, wherein the information storage chip of an assignor sends an assignment request to the electronic ticket assignment apparatus by specifying ID information of the information storage chip of an assignee and the electronic ticket

information to be assigned, and the electronic ticket assignment apparatus performs an assignment operation by writing the electronic ticket information to be assigned into the information storage chip of the assignee in response to the assignment request and by deleting the assigned electronic ticket information from the information storage chip of the assignor.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus includes an electronic ticket platform center which authenticates a writing/deleting operation of the electronic ticket information, and a reader/writer for reading and writing the electronic ticket information from and into the information storage chip; and

wherein the assignment request and the assignment operation are performed via a network.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus comprises an information storage chip reader/writer having a right to authenticate a writing/deleting operation of the electronic ticket information.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein a predetermined time period is provided between the assignment request and the assignment operation.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus further includes at least one memory device storing executable instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause the electronic ticket assignment apparatus to perform at least one reading/writing operation of electronic ticket information from and into an information storage chip.

Claim 41 to 60 (canceled).

Claim 61 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of electronic tickets written to the storage chip correspond to a plurality of consecutive seats for the same event.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, wherein the plurality of electronic tickets written to the first information storage chip correspond to a plurality of consecutive seats for the same event.

Claim 63 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the assignor is a first user having an information storage chip and the assignee is a second user having an information storage chip, and the assignment of electronic ticket information is from the first user to the second user.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, further comprising:

before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

(a) receive identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip;

(b) receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip.